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E.O. 12065: RDS-4, 12/3/00 (GRAHL, LARRY C)
TAGS: PGOV, UV
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON VOLTAN COUP AND WELFARE OF EX-PRESIDENT LAMIZANA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEWED BY: EB
F MAR 1982

1. (U) VOLTAN MEDIA REPORTS CARDINAL PAUL ZOUNGRANA (OF VOLTAN NATIONALITY, RESIDENT OUAGADOUGOU) CALLED ON COLONEL SAYE ZERBO DECEMBER 2 ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UPPER VOLTA-NIGER ESPISCOPATE AND THE VICAR GENERAL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF OUAGADOUGOU. FOLLOWING MEETING CARDINAL DECLARED TO PRESS THAT THE HAD COME TO CONGRATULATE THE PRESIDENT OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE OF REFORM FOR NATIONAL PROGRESS (CMRPN) AND ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR HAVING BEEN "THE AGENT OF PROVIDENCE OF A GOD THAT LOVES UPPER VOLTA". CARDINAL HOPED THAT UPPER VOLTA "WOULD CONTINUE TO MERIT THE CONFIDENCE OF GOD". HE OBSERVED THAT AS HE COULD SEE FROM THE GAIETY OF THE PEOPLE "THE COUP D'ETAT IS AN ACT OG GOD'S GRACE".

4. (U) COMMENT: CARDINAL ZOUNGRANA HAS JUST RETURNED FROM THE BISHOP'S SYNOD IN ROME AND WEST GERMANY WHERE HE WAS A MEMBEER OF THE POPE'S ENTOURAGE.

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